

From: **Director, NPS** <nps_director@nps.gov>
Date: Wed, Jan 24, 2018 at 8:05 AM
Subject: A Message From New NPS Acting Director Dan Smith
To: NPS All Employees <nps_all_employees@nps.gov>

Good morning colleagues,

Two weeks ago, I returned the National Park Service as a deputy director, and today I am honored that Secretary Zinke has named me acting director.

I come to this job with a keen understanding of how decisions here in WASO affect all of you on the front lines, and I will keep that in mind every day. While I have more than 40 years of experience in government service, my time as superintendent of Colonial National Historical Park was a career highlight and will greatly influence the work I hope to do on behalf of the National Park Service over the next few years.

Personally, I felt like this was the right time for me to come back and to contribute to the extraordinary mission of the National Park Service. I will use all of my skills and experience on behalf of all of you to serve as an effective bridge between the NPS and the Department.

I realize I am writing to you just after you and your colleagues are returning from a brief government shutdown. I was deeply impressed by the hard work and dedication of staff in Washington, regional offices and parks to prepare for and manage during the shutdown. The Secretary and many other visitors and partners were incredibly grateful for the NPS efforts during the shutdown, and your professionalism was recognized and appreciated.

Mike Reynolds, who has served as acting director since January 3, 2017, has done an extraordinary job on your behalf over the last year, demonstrating the competence, passion, and character, that NPS employees are known for. He has been generous with his time and knowledge as I have been getting back up to speed, and I am grateful for that. I am also proud to announce that Mike has agreed to take on an exciting new role as the superintendent of Yosemite National Park and will provide the steady leadership the park, its workforce, and neighboring communities deserve.

The past two weeks have been a wonderful opportunity for me to reconnect with so many colleagues across the service and to see how much energy and activity is ongoing across the Service. I look forward to meeting many, many more of you in the months ahead, and I am proud to support your great work.

Thank you for your commitment to the NPS.